The A. F. of L. Weekly News-Service gives news comments and editorials interpreting the policies and leading labor controversies in the fields of legislation, and industrial relations, as viewed by the officials and executives of labor in the trade union movement.

AMERICAN FEDERATION OF LABOR

WEEKLY NEWS SERVICE

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VOL. 37, NO. 45 WILLIAM GREEN, President WASHINGTON, D. C., TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 11, 1947 CHARLES SHANT, Secretary-Treasurer WHOLE NO. 1909

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Leaders Deny Labor Is Responsible For High Costs In Building Industry

Chicago.—Every labor representative categorically denied that labor is to blame for high prices in the building industry as the chief witness union misuse have increased home building costs.

The union leaders were hailed before the Joint Congressional Housing Committee which held hearings here to probe into the affairs of unions as they relate to the building industry.

This was the first hearing in a series designed to air the alleged malpractices of unions. A spokesman for the House Labor Committee is scheduled to conduct an inquiry on the same subject.

In inquiring before the joint committee the union leaders emphasized that union racketeering called for the cooperation in the home building program and refuted the all-around charges of slowdowns and "featherbedding" leaders on the part of labor. Their testimony emphasized the following points:

1. That construction costs generally had increased more than 100 percent since 1940 but that union pay scales had risen only 55 percent. Patrick J. Gorman, president of the Chicago Building Trades Council, said that on other labor expended 85.3 percent of the total cost of a 1940 home which sold for $7,500. The labor cost percentage, he said, is now a total 76 percent on the same type of home, the price of which had risen to $14,900.

2. That the force of Chicago building trade apprentices, now numbering 2,000, is adequate to meet the demand that the unions wanted and need more than 4,000.

3. That union men had been slowed down in their work because supplies could not get materials to them fast enough.

4. That the congressional committee should make a check on the profit margins of contractors and builders. Joseph D. Keenan, secretary of the Chicago Federation of Labor, said a builder was entitled to a fair profit but implied that some may be making an exorbitant amount.

'Real' Wages Down $5.00 Weekly Says BLS Report

Washington, D. C.—At a time when profits in industry are booming along at record levels, American workers employed by that industry are seeing the purchasing power of their weekly wages diminishing month by month in the face of soaring prices.

A recent report released by the Bureau of Labor Statistics shows the extent of this gradual drop in purchasing power over a period of years. It is all the more striking for the reason, since the slow shrinking process has been pulled together and emphasized in one graphic presentation.

BLS figures reveal that for the period from VJ-Day to the end of August 1947, workers' gross average weekly wages increased 10 percent but the cost of living zoomed a total of 24 percent over the same time interval. The net result was a gradual but steady shrinkage in a 5 percent drop in their real wages during a two-year period.

Stated another way, the bureau upon working out the figures, declared that the average worker, the loss in buying power expressed in 1939 dollars cost of every week's wages amounts to more than $5.00 since the wartime peak in 1945.

The BLS reports that in current dollars, wages have been slow to rising, but have not for a long time kept pace with prices.

In "spendable" purchase, the bureau explained, is arrived at by taking into consideration the advance in wages and the increase in social security and income taxes deducted from pay envelopes.

On that basis, the bureau reports that the average worker's "spendable" earnings in August of only $29.25, expressed in 1939 dollars, compared with an average of $34.39 during 1944.

Still worse, the report showed, the purchasing power of workers' wages declined for four successive months, from May to August—and continues to go down hill.

Prices, meanwhile, kept reaching for the moon. During August, for example, retail food prices mounted by 1.8 percent, and during September the rise was much greater—from 3 to 4 percent, or a total of about 40 percent a year, the Labor Department pointed out.

The BLS figures that the cost of living has been staggering all time peak of nearly 11% percent above August 1939, the department revealed. For such commodities as meat and fish, the increase has been even greater—from 140 to 166 percent.

AFL Teachers Urge Zeal For Democracy

New York City.—The New York Teachers Guild, affiliated with the American Federation of Teachers, is participating in the development of a "zeal for democracy program" to be carried on as a national campaign through the U. S. Office of Education.

Meeting in Washington with representatives of the Office of Education, the AFT committee called for the initiation of a campaign of education on the subject of democratic human relations. The AFT committee proposals included the following:

1—Curriculum revision to include a thorough understanding of the meaning of democracy and all the implications, scientific data regarding race, contributions of various groups to American culture, study of literary works of various racial and national groups, elimination of stereotypes and biased statements regarding minorities in textbooks;

2—Introduction of courses on democratic human relations in teacher training institutes and institutions;

3—Development, through as many educational media as possible, of such social consciousness which will make it easier for individuals and groups to be democratic and practice democracy.

Nest-Feathering Attempt By Chicago's Landlords Foiled By Housing Expediter

Washington, D. C.—The attempt of the Chicago Rent Advisory Board to ride roughshod over the rights of tenants in the Chicago area was foiled by the flat rejection of the board's proposed recommendation of a general increase in rents.

Acting Housing Expediter Tighe E. Woods rejected the proposal since it "did not contain any substantiating evidence or data" as required by the Housing and Rent Act of 1947.

The Chicago board, apparently trying to head off the housing expediter's action when no one was looking, held an public hearing on the proposal and merely reported to the Housing Expediter that in a one-paragraph letter the board "unanimously recommend that landlords in the entire Chicago Defense-Rental Area be granted a 15 percent increase in their present rentals."

The housing expediter, in his letter, pointed out that there are provisions in the law for escalation for individual adjustments in cases of hardship and for the establishment of maximum rents.

Mr. Woods's action was general throughout an area. Mr. Woods explained that under the law any provision that rent advisory boards recommend must be based on the current rent level, rather than on subsequent adjustment basis.

In determining whether the general rent level of an area is adequate, it is suggested that consideration of factors is "generally pertinent." The law also requires hearings to be held, records generally within the area, and any unusual conditions or circumstances that caused the rent level at the maximum rent date to be substantially low or not representative.

Mr. Woods had noted that the Chicago recommendation contained no substantiating evidence. He said that the evidence relating to these factors should be attached to the recommendation and should establish that the adequate and quality prevailing rent level was affected by the factors complained of.

The housing expediter also said that landlords may not file multiple petitions in an attempt of gathering information." The Chicago board held no public hearing before making its recommendation.

The Chicago Defense-Rental Area is composed of Cook, Lake, DuPage, and Kane counties in Illinois. The latest census in 1940 population of 4,815,122. At the present time there are approximately 800,000 housing units, a dwelling units registered in the area and under rent control. Petitions will be filed with the Area Rent Office in which tenants and landlords will individually extend their own written agreements to increase rents up to 15 percent.

BLS Reports Strikes In September At Lowest Level Since December 1946

Washington, D. C.—Work stoppages in September resulting from labor-management disputes were at the lowest level since December of 1946, the Bureau of Labor Statistics reported.

The approximately 78,000 workers affected by the stoppages represented the lowest number involved since February 1947.

Idleness in plants directly involved in labor-management controversies in September was estimated at 1,000,000 man-days or less than for any month since March 1947.

Including stoppages which continued from preceding months, about 400 disputes involving a total of 165,000 workers, were in effect during September. The largest of these continued to be the CIO East Coast strike affecting some 30,000 to 40,000 workers.

The general level of strike activity in the first 9 months of 1947 was considerably lower than for the same period 1946. And for the month of September stoppages were recorded from January 1946, the Bureau of Labor Statistics reported.

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The general level of strike activity

Profit Rate Doubles Best War Year; O'Mahoney Urges Excess Profits Tax

Washington, D. C.—Business profits are reaching their most nearly unbelievable peak of profits earned in any war year.

This fact, which has been reported by several business papers during the past few, brought forth a comment from Senator Joseph C. O'Mahoney (D., Wyoming). The Senator declared it is high time to "examine some facts of gargan profits tax."

Discussing the whole subject of profits which are netting records despite the fact that workers' "real" wages are declining, the Senator said:

"Profits are running well ahead of any previous record. At the rate we are now going they will total 19 or 20 billion dollars in 1947. That is twice the total earned in the best war year.

"The dividends paid out by corporations are also way up. For example, the monthly magazine of the Irving Trust Company contains a table showing that dividends declared on "stock" investments increased 26.6 percent in the first six months of 1947 compared with the same period of 1946.

"Of all the stocks listed on the Exchange, 641 declared increased dividends this year, 209 declared the same dividends as in 1946, and only 66 declared smaller dividends.

Another article in the Stock Exchange magazine said that corporations whose total "full income" after taxes and all charges, rose 1946 to increased 97.2 percent this year.

In other words, profits have practically doubled since last year.

The Senator declared it is high time to "examine some facts of gargan profits tax."

"Price maximum ride talking from the president and from Leon Henderson, Chester Bowles, and, unlike tanne, price ceilings on the rent reduce the national debt. The only thing price boosts do is feed the flames of inflation."

The oil industry is a fine example of what O'Mahoney has in mind. It is one of the industries to be proud of the excess profits rate has cost the treasury hundreds of millions.

Profits for the first months will be the most profitable in history, it is predicted by the "Wall Street Journal."

Public Servants Week Set For '48

Madison, Wis.—Arnold S. Zander, president of the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employes, AFL, announced the celebration of "Public Servants Week," for 1948.

The purpose of the observance is to focus public attention on ways and means of providing better and more efficient service to the public by state, county, and municipal employes, Zander said tentatively chosen for 1948 because of the Olympic Games.

The union will invite other international groups in the United States and Canada to cooperate in making Public Servants Week a success. There will be set aside for special services, such as safety and law enforcement, education, sanitation, conservation, recreation and health and welfare. Every public employe will be given a full day of honor and opportunity to demonstrate his work.

Among the objectives of the federation in establishing a Public Servants Week are: Serving the public better, saving money for the taxpayers through greater productivity, encouraging merit and fitness in public employment, and achieving reforms in public administration.

It is also a belief of the AFSCME that better public understanding of the work done by public employes will help in the recruitment of the public in crime prevention, in sanitation programs, in prevention in conservation, in public school educational facilities, and in all the other endeavors of public employes to make the communities in which they work better places in which to live.

AFL TRADES COUNCIL SPONSORS NEW FORUM

Newark, N. J.—The AFL's Essex Trades Council is sponsoring a forum on the subject of "Cash Sickness Benefits and the Welfare plan now undertaken by the new institute of Labor Management and Labor Relations of Rutgers University.

The institute was set up by the New Jersey State Legislature to further the study of management and labor relations.

In keeping wit hthe tri-partite nature of the institute, the forum to be held on November 21st will present the views of labor, management, and the public on the question for discussion.

Speaking for labor will be Nahon Cruikshank, the AFL's director of Social Insurance Activities, and Harry Vincent of Newark, AFL secretary-treasurer of the New Jersey Federation of Labor.

GREEN TO SPEAK ON AFL RADIO PROGRAM

Washington, D. C.—The AFL's Labor Reporter for the week November 19th will be devoted to a talk by AFL President William Green on the important issues facing the second session of Congress called by President Truman.

On November 24th the topic for discussion will be "Labor and Inflation. Be Curbed?" Participants in the discussion will include William Mauge, executive secretary of the Labor Relations, Cap and Millinery Workers; Mark Starr, educational director of the International Ladies Garment Workers Union, and Philip Pearl, the AFL's director of publicity.

The AFL program are carried on the nation-wide network of the American Broadcasting Company every Tuesday evening at 10:30 P.M. Eastern time. Consult your local newspaper for the time of the broadcast in your community.

Truman Calls For Corrective Action To Improve Nation's School System

Washington, D. C.—In a statement marking the opening of American Education Week, President Truman called upon the nation to provide a "sound education" for their children and to act "to correct conditions which sap our national strength and waste our talent and resources."

Mr. Truman declared such action was required to solve the "grave crisis" facing American education and to win the peace as well as the battle for freedom.

A portion of the President's statement, released by the National Education Association, follows:

"Our forefathers saw that our schools would help children develop their potentialities for democratic living. They set up a system of education from schools for a free people.

"I would point out that the creative energies of our people must be released in order to be learned. The vitality of our republic depends on the effectiveness of such teaching.

"Today American education is in the grips of a grave crisis. Our schools are completely out of touch with the inferior quality. Education-ally, much of the genius of our children is underprivileged.

"We must act to correct conditions which sap our national strength and waste our talent and resources.

"We cannot prepare our young people to under stand our problems and the importance of freedom. We must give them the proper education to prevent being intellectual competence and personal responsibility.

"I therefore urge all Americans to rededicate themselves to the important principle of free schools with adequate education. American Education Week provides an excellent occasion the opportunity to meet together to discuss the problems of our schools and to become acquainted with school needs. In so doing we will be rendering aid to the very citadel of democracy."

TELEGRAPHERS TURN DOWN ORGANIZATIONAL UNITY

Los Angeles—The recent convention of the AFL's Commercial Telegraphers Union held here failed to reject the proposal by Western Union Division for closer affiliation with the parent body.

The Western Union unit had proposed that every Western Union local affiliate directly with the Commercial Telegraphers Union and that the provisional headquarters be eliminated.

As a result of the action taken by the convention the question of affiliation was referred to a special committee instructed to study the proposal in detail and to report back to the next session of the CTU scheduled for 1948 in Boston.

In other convention actions the CTU voted to reduce its monthly per capita tax paid to the international by 10 cents and abolished the office of international auditor.

In its final action, the delegates to the convention reelected W. C. Allen as international president of the CTU-AFL, with the contract expiring by a vote of 36 to 34. J. A. Fuller, regional president of the Western Union Division.

WORLD WAR II CASUALTIES PUT AT 15,000,000 TOTAL

Washington, D. C.—The number of killed and missing in World War II reached the staggering total of more than 15 millions. That includes civilian military personnel. How many civilians were among the dead is not known.

Authority for these statements is Secretary of State George C. Marshall. The statement was originally written for the "Encyclopaedia Britannica."

The United States lost 292,904, or one in every 500 of the 1940 population. Russia was the biggest loser—20 millions, or one in every 22 of its population.

BROKERS WON'T BE SHORT

New York City.—Any worker fortunate enough to have money to invest is shocks will find that it now costs him about twice as much to make his investment.

Brokers on the New York Stock Exchange voted unanimously an increase in their commission rates on all transactions in the buying and selling of shares of stock.

AFL's Teamsters Gain Union Shops In Elections Under Taft-Hartley Law

Washington, D. C.—Members of two locals of the AFL's Teamsters Union voted for the right to make the union shop in the first union shop election held in any area of the first time held throughout the country, the National Labor Relations Board announced.

The elections were held among employes of the Safeway Stores, a large national grocery chain, as required under the Taft-Hartley law.

In a secret ballot conducted by the NLRB, the Warehouse Employes, Local No. 180 of the Teamsters Union, voted 2 to 1 in favor of the union shop.

Employes of the same company voted by a majority of the committee as "one man, clear statement of how labor may be used as a charge of time for "Wall Street."

Rep. Kenneth Donorvi asserted, "The illegal report makes four flagrant misrepresentations. Three of them are designed to legalize tax evasion by the wealthy and the other by the upper bracket taxpayers. Mr. Wolf's objective is clear. He has lost for the millions he has rendered."

Mr. Wolf's report, the minority report for its recommendations for the repeal of the excess profits tax and for the elimination of excise taxes on such items as radios and services.

Representative Forand of Rhode Island pointed out the injustice contained in the Republican proposals for the reduction of surtax rates. The minority report would reduce the rate of taxes in the highest income brackets by 30 percent, while making a reduction of only 5 percent in the lowest income brackets, he declared.

GREEN HELPS DEDICATE TELEGRAPHERS BUILDING

St. Louis.—The Order of Railroad Telegraphers dedicated their new headquarters building here with appropriate ceremonies attended by representatives of the AFL.

AFL President William Green participated in the dedication and praised the ORT for its efficiency, solidarity and progressiveness.

"The story of the beginning of this organization and the subsequent growth of this splendid new building might well be the story of the labor movement and what it stands for," Green declared.

He added that the ORT had set a code of organization and administration that "makes for good management, for dignity and stability and for the credit of all labor in this country."

FAMILY'S OUTLAY FOR CHILDREN RISES 50%

The cost of bringing up a child in the United States has increased to become rose more than 50 percent in the last decade, statisticians of the Metropolitan Life Insurance Company reported.

Ten years ago, they said, the cost of rearing a child to the age of 18 was almost $10,000 in a family with an income of about $2,500 a year. At present prices, the comparable cost would be more than $15,000.

Largest increases in costs have been for food and clothing.

Two Congressmen Lend Support to Woll's Tax Report Favoring Low Income Group

Washington, D. C.—Matthew Woll, chairman of the AFL's Committee on Taxation, was commended by the Special Tax Study Committee appointed by Representative Knutson, reelected congressional support for the strong minority report issued by Mr. Woll in criticism of the proposals of the majority of the committee.

Representative Herman P. Eberharter, Democrat from Pennsylvania, the majority report and supported Mr. Woll's position in urging relief for tax relief for low income families.

Rep. Eberharter, in a telegram to Mr. Woll commended the AFL official's stature to "a cleverly disguised effort to relieve the wealthy of their proper share of the tax burden."

Rep. Forand declared that the majority report of the Republican members of the committee "is a shameful attempt to legalize tax evasion by the wealthy and the other upper bracket taxpayers. Mr. Woll's objective is clear. He has lost for the millions he has rendered."

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VA URGES ACCELERATED GI JOB TRAINING PLAN

Washington, D. C.—The Veterans Administration called upon the contracting agencies of the apprenticeship cooperation to provide the additional thousands of job-training opportunities needed for veterans of World War II.

Because of the scarcity of job-training opportunities in the past year, the number of disabled ex-GI's training under the GI Bill has declined since the first decrease in the training program took place in June, 1946.

The job trainees numbered 197,606 at the end of the month.

"To keep pace with the steadily growing demand," Gen. Bradley said in an agency announcement said, "VA must depend on the continuing cooperation of employers throughout the country in providing opportunities for additional thousands of disabled veterans now awaiting job-training opportunities."

AFL'S MUSICIANS UNION CHOOSES LEGAL COURSEL

Washington, D. C.—The law firm of Gerhard P. Van Arkel and Henry Nasser has been employed to represent the American Federation of Musicians, it was announced.

Mr. Van Arkel was until recently general counsel of the National Labor Relations Board. Mr. Kaiser was formerly associated with the late Joseph A. Padway, general counsel of the American Federation of Labor.

HERRMANN, ILP SECRETARY, REELECTED TO LEGISLATURE

Newark, N. J.—Labor-supported candidate Lewis M. Herrmann was reelected to the State Legislature from Essex County by a 40,000 majority to return to overall Democratic landslide.

Herrmann, secretary-treasurer of the International Ladies Garment Workers Union endorsed by the AFL. He is also the New Jersey Labor Herald and a member of the International Typographical Union.

Serving his first term in the State Assembly last year, Herrmann was the only Republican to oppose the passage of the state's anti-picketing law. His legislative record at Trenton is an opportunity pro-labor record for progressive social legislation.

AFL PRINTERS GAIN $11.76 WEEKLY BOOST

Boston.—The Boston Newspaper Publishers Association and the AFL have reached a settlement with the Boston Typographical Union on the basis of an increase of $11.76 per week.

P. J. Flaherty, secretary of the association, who made the announcement, made no mention of a contract and individual publishers declined comment.

Members of the group include the Boston Globe, Herald-Traveler, Record-American - Advertiser, Boston Post, The Christian Science Monitor recently followed similar pacts by the Boston Newspaper Publishers Association group.

STORE EXECUTIVE WARNS HIGH PRICES CUT SALES

New York City.—If business men are worrying about high prices, they should be, warns Harry Edmunson, Jr., director of Macy's big department store.

"We are pricing merchandise above the means of the people," he declares. "The automatic result is obvious, but the number of units sold to customers is not.

"Prosperity cannot continue unless the people can buy. Prices must be reduced to enable the masses of ordinary wage earners to come in and buy."

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The A. F. of L. Weekly News Service gives news accounts and official interpretations of matters affecting labor according to the industrial, legislative, and judicial fields, and contains other information of benefit to the trade union movement.

AMERICAN FEDERATION OF LABOR
WEEKLY NEWS SERVICE
SUPPLEMENT

WILLIAM GREEN, President — WASHINGTON, D. C., FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 14, 1947 — GEORGE MEANY, Secretary-Treasurer

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Meany Charges 'Misleading Propaganda' Brought About Vicious Taft-Hartley Law

New York City.—George Meany, secretary-treasurer of the American Federation of Labor, charged that enactment of the Taft-Hartley law by the 80th Congress represents "a triumph of misleading propaganda" and warned that the intensive propaganda campaign against labor is still under way.

Speaking at a symposium on the Taft-Hartley law at Manhattan College here, Mr. Meany cited the demand by some congressional leaders for still more restrictive legislation to curb labor, but expressed confidence that the American people will not swallow the propaganda line. He said:

"I am supremely confident that the American people will not be fooled indefinitely, that they will soon recognize and denounce the lies, the false propaganda and the utter selfishness that inspired this law.

"Let us for a moment test the validity of the contention that the National Association of Manufacturers and the Eightieth Congress, so eagerly did its bidding, were protecting and expanding the rights of the wage-earners of the nation. Let us test it against the unwelcome and the full performance of the Eightieth Congress so far.

"I submit that the record conclusively shows that the Congress was grossly ignorant the needs and welfare of the overwhelming numbers of people of this country. It matters not at what point you begin, what piece of proposed or enacted legislation you examine, the same ugly pattern is glaringly revealed.

"It is a pattern of virtually complete subservience to the dictates of powerful economic groups without any regard as to the disastrous consequences on the rest of the people. * * * And nowhere more so than in the Taft-Hartley law."

Mr. Meany declared the full effects of the law will not be felt until August 1948, at which time the first of the contracts signed after the law takes effect will be expired. That's time, he said, for those who would have the public believe that the existence of the new law has not caused any great industrial strife since its passage.

The AFL official warned that such strife is inevitable should the vicious law remain in effect, but he expressed confidence that the new law "cannot long survive."

He charged that the law contains an "essential psychological error" in its failure to recognize that the labor management relationship is "a human relationship—one of the most difficult and complicated and important of all human relationships."

"External interference in the form of compulsive laws is the surest way of preventing mature, thorough-going adjustments," Mr. Meany pointed out. "The only realistic and workable rules for decent employer-employee relations are those that labor and management have themselves voluntarily devised and accepted. That's what we mean by collective bargaining."

"The Taft-Hartley law completely violates these elementary principles. It imposes lawyers, the Labor Board and the courts as the unwelcome guests at every collective bargaining table.

"It takes from the persons most involved, the management and parties to the relationship—every opportunity to exercise their ingenuity in meeting their own difficulties."

Mr. Meany cited several by labor leaders of government by injunction, the weakening of protections against unfair practices by employers, the giving to the NLRB's powerful economic groups without any regard as to the disastrous consequences on the rest of the people, individual bargaining and the "insolent" refusal of government officials to swear to their loyalty to their government "without imposing similar obligations on business officials."

The Saturday Evening Post Exposed As Biased Organ Of Reactionary Opinion

Washington, D. C.—The Saturday Evening Post, a weekly magazine with a wide circulation among the nation's workers, was exposed as a one-sided organ of reactionary opinion by its refusal to accept space to the American Federation of Labor to answer an article praising to the skies the obnoxious Taft-Hartley Law.

This article, featured in the October 25 issue of the Saturday Evening Post, was written by J. Wash Swigert, member of the law firm of Taft, Stettinius and Hollister, Senator Robert A. Taft of Ohio, author of the Taft-Hartley Law, is a partner in this law firm. It was not surprising, therefore, that Mr. Swigert found nothing to criticize in his law partner's legislative monstrosity.

Aroused by Mr. Swigert's biased and inaccurate article, President William Green of the American Federation of Labor wrote to the Saturday Evening Post requesting the courtesy of the publication of a reply to the story on the Taft-Hartley Law.

In his letter to the Saturday Evening Post, curtly refused this request. In his letter he frankly admitted that the Saturday Evening Post recognized the one-sided nature of the Taft-Hartley Law. He wrote:

"We do not consider the Post as a forum type publication which must always devote equal space to both sides of any topic.

"We frankly take sides on many important questions and we believe that to be our right.

"When the Taft-Hartley Law was being hammered out in Congress, we gave it a lot of careful study and came to the conclusion that in the main it was a wise and fair law that would be supported.

Mr. Hibbs then made some sneering comments on labor's objections to this law and continued:

"Labor's arguments against the law have been presented over and over in the newspapers and other publications, until by this time they are an old story.

Thus, Mr. Hibbs rejected the possibility that labor might have a new story on the Taft-Hartley Law, although the story by Mr. Swigert further stated in his letter:

"We believed it was high time that some publication answer these accusations in a dignified and fair-minded way, and we believe the Swigert article did that."

The kind of editorial bias which could regard an article on the Taft-Hartley Act by Senator Taft's law partner as "fair-minded" is beyond my comprehension," Mr. Green declared. He declined to comment further on the matter.

Mr. Hibbs' letter concluded with an insulting offer to the American Federation of Labor that it write a story favorable to the Taft-Hartley Law in a "letter to the editor," not to exceed 400 words, which, even if published, would be lurked in a remote corner of the magazine.

Herbert Thatcher, associate counsel for the AFL, will write a series of articles for the AFL Weekly News Service answering Swigert's article point by point and adding a few points Swigert forgot to mention. Publication of this series will begin in an early issue.)

AFL Adopts 3-Point Program In Support Of Marshall Plan

Francis P. Fenton Appointed to Post As AFL's International Representative

Washington, D. C.—AFL President William Green announced the appointment of Francis P. Fenton, National Director of Organization, to the post of International Representative of the American Federation of Labor.

Mr. Green's announcement followed a meeting of the AFL's International Relations Committee here at which time Mr. Fenton was selected to fill the post left vacant by the untimely death of Robert J. Watt. It is expected that Mr. Fenton also will take Mr. Watt's place as the American Workers' Delegate to the International Labor Organization.

Mr. Fenton was born in Boston in 1901, and for many years has been active in the labor movement. A member of Coal and Coal Chauffeurs & Helpers, Local Union No. 45 of the International Brotherhood of Teamsters, he was active in labor politics in the city of Boston. Mr. Fenton served as vice-president and president of the Boston Central Labor Union and was an executive board member of that organization for a period of 8 years.

Mr. Fenton became associated with the American Federation of Labor as an organizer, and in 1939 was the AFL's New England Regional Director of Organization when he was called to Washington to take the post of National Director of Organization for the AFL, which position he held at the time of his recent appointment.

In addition to his labor activities, Mr. Fenton served as a consultant on workers' education to the U. S. Office of Education, and was a member of the Labor-Management Advisory Committee, U. S. Department of Labor. He is also a member of the labor committee of the Massachusetts Housing Association.

In his new capacity as International Representative for the AFL, Mr. Fenton is scheduled to leave for Europe the end of November to attend a meeting of the Executive Board of the International Labor Organization.

Mr. Fenton's successor as Director of Organization for the AFL has not been chosen.

Economist, Employer and Union Leader Urge Increase In Minimum Wage Level

Washington, D. C.—Isador Lubin, former Commissioner of Labor Statistics, urged Congress to up the present minimum wage to 75 cents an hour and to extend the coverage to adequate minimum wage standards "in an orderly way" in the years ahead, when the Fair Labor Standards Act was last revised.

His testimony before a House labor subcommittee hearing proposals to modify the wage-hour law backed up the stand long taken by the AFL in its drive for the upward revision of the minimum wage level from 40 to 75 cents an hour.

Mr. Lubin said the present minimum "for all practical purposes" condemns "a large number of low-income workers. He asked that a careful study of existing economic problems be made so as to assure salaried workers a fair treatment equal to hourly workers, and called for lifting the minimum wage level to the 75 cent figure.

An employer, Patrick W. McDonough of Oakland, California, startled the committee by testifying that a new $1 hourly minimum wage. He declared that it would not add to what is paid by some employers unless it is made mandatory and urged the $1 hourly rate as a level which will provide a good standard of living.

Among these he listed firms "that have to rely upon unfairly low wages to remain in competition in our present economy."

Such firms, he said, "are no more entitled to protection from economic failure than are the thousands of unprotected enterprises who are forced to close their doors because of poor business judgment, changes in production methods and the competitive superiority of their fellow business units."

In other testimony, Paul R. Hutchings, president of the AFL's Office Employes International Union, urged the committee to make no changes in the law which would weaken the position of the nation's white collar workers. He asked that a careful study of existing economic problems be made so as to assure salaried workers a fair treatment equal to hourly workers, and called for lifting the minimum wage level to the 75 cent figure.

Also appearing, Patrick W. McDonough of Oakland, California, startled the committee by testifying that a new $1 hourly minimum wage. He declared that it would not add to what is paid by some employers unless it is made mandatory and urged the $1 hourly rate as a level which will provide a good standard of living.

Union Publication Exposes Fallacies Behind Anti-Labor Public Opinion Poll

Milwaukee, Wis.—An AFL union has come out with a blast at the false impression created by the public opinion poll conducted by the magazine, Look" magazine which purported to show that Americans were divided in opposing the Taft-Hartley law as a whole, notably as to its worst provisions.

Anthony G. Weinlein, Director of Research and Education for the AFL's Building Service Employes' Union, exposed the fallacies of the Look" poll in a searching analysis prepared for the union's publication Report to Members."

The poll, conducted by the Opinion Research Corporation, was based upon a series of questions asked the public and union members in order to find out whether the majority favored or opposed the Taft-Hartley law. In reply to the first question, 54 percent of those polled were against the law.

Then, the polling agency took it upon itself to draw up three separate questions which in its opinion were all" designed to test sentiment on the "controversial provisions" of the law. Those questions were carefully drafted, for a purpose, so as not to be related to the law itself. In the face of it then, the public was asked to express an opinion on ten different questions just as though there were in existence ten different laws.

After deliberately asking questions not dealing with the law, the pollsters took the answers which were favorable to the questions as a whole and came out with the conclusion that the majority of the respondents generally favored the individual provisions on which they were asked, although they favored the specific law itself.

Mr. Weinlein's analysis points out some of the more obvious fallacies in the polling agency's technique as follows:

1. "The so-called ten provisions do not add up to the entire law. They include the essential but unexpressed feature of the law which is to practically nullify the Wagner Act.

"We know that individual union members and labor leaders have supported and continue to support individual provisions of the act. But to the essential viciousness and the danger rampant in the ambiguities of the act, the labor movement stands opposed.

2. "The fact that a majority of workers were in favor of each of the ten 'provisions' when considered as they were framed does not prove that they would not be opposed to a law which combines the ten provisions. The poll implies that it was essentially the same people who supported each of these ten provisions, but that is not necessarily so.

3. "The wording of the questions was deliberately biased in favor of the law. Practically all of the questions about provisions sound reasonable if you don't think about them. And who can do much thinking about eleven or more involved questions in a complicated law that is added in a short space of time?

"Consider the question about battling for a union shop. The interviewers asked: 'Are you in favor of a law to forbid a company to have a union shop until a majority of all the workers vote in favor of it?' Now, who wants to be a strikebreaker, agitation, and many a democratically-minded person would say 'no.' Nobody seems to be noticing the joker contained in that little word all.' According to the law, that is a function if its operations had to be supported and its officers elected by a majority of all the voter's eligible.

"The question might easily have been worded: 'Are you in favor of a law which contains the number of people not voting in a union-shop election as having to put up against the union shop?' If the question had been worded in this manner, then the results of the interviewing would have been different. The public opinion applies to practically all the provisions of the law in the same fashion.

"That union members were misled by the nature of the questions is indicated by the contradiction between their replies to this union-shop question and their replies to questions according to the poll, 77 percent of them favored the principle that workers should collectively outlaw the union shop while only 43 percent favored the closed shop. Thus their opposition to the weaker union security clause is much greater than their opposition to the stronger clause.

"4. Finally, a person who supports both sides of a question should not be considered merely supporting one side of it. The poll says the workers contradictorily supported the Taft-Hartley law while supporting its provisions. Actually, he says, they are in favor of the law!"

Calls European Labor Conference to Map Aid to U. S. Plan

Washington, D. C.—The American Federation of Labor announced a three-point program in support of the efforts of the United States Government to bring about world peace through the Marshall Plan.

1. The Federation will call a conference of labor representatives of 16 nations participating in the European program to consider how labor can promote the economic rehabilitation of Europe under the Marshall Plan.

2. The Federation will issue a nationwide appeal to its eight million members to purchase "Care" packages for distribution to the needy in the countries.

3. The Federation will expand its work program of assistance to the free trade union movements of Europe and facilitate the exchange of more detailed information on collective bargaining and other economic subjects of interest to labor organizations on both sides of the Atlantic.

The decision to call the Western European Labor Conference was reached at a meeting in AFL headquarters of the AFL's International Labor Relations Committee, which, formity with action recommended at the recent AFL convention in San Francisco.

Irving Brown and Henry Rutz, European representatives of the AFL, were instructed at the meeting to return to Europe immediately and arrange an appropriate time and place for the conference.

The committee declared that "the cooperation of free trade unions in this country and Europe is essential to combat the propaganda of Moscow which misrepresents the Marshall Plan and seeks to destroy it." The committee further stated:

"The United States seeks to restore the economy of Europe on a self-sustaining basis for the purpose of creating a possible world-wide peace. The people of the defeated nations as well as those of victorious allies can have no hope for the future except in the restoration in their democratic freedoms unless these countries of western Europe can again become self-supporting.

"The American Federation of Labor believes that its contribution to world peace and security and democracy can best be fulfilled by the revival of free trade unions as bulwarks of democracy in European countries.

"Through such democratic labor movements we can expose the falsity of the Soviet propaganda against the United States and the Marshall Plan. We can further make the workers of Europe understand that Soviet Russia's program is designed to bring into revolution and thus extend the international domain of Communism."

Woll Protests UNESCO Action

Washington, D. C.—Matthew Woll, AFL Executive Council member and chairman of the AFL's liaison officer of Labor-Industry Relations, protested against irregularities in the filling of the post of labor liaison officer of United Nat'l s Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization.

Mr. Woll charged that Dr. Julian Huxley, secretary-general of UNESCO, named James Jefferyes, a British subject, to the position although he was a vital one by the trade union movement, without consultation with either the American Federation of Labor or the British Trades Union Congress.

"Responsible officials of the British Trades Union Congress have informed me that Jefferyes' connections and background are 'very doubtful' and that he is not in accord with the Communist question," Woll said. "Further, it is their belief that Jefferyes convinces us that he is far from being a wise choice for this important position," Mr. Woll added.

"For that reason we have asked the AFL representative on the U. S. delegation to the forthcoming UNESCO general conference in Mexico City to refrain from extending him support and to refrain from recognizing him as a labor representative," Joseph Landis, president of the American Federation of Teachers, is the AFL representative on the UNESCO conference.

Since Jefferyes is also preparing to tour the United States following the Mexico City conference, we ask all AFL officials and labor editors to refrain from extending him any cooperation or recognition.

"In short, we wish to make it clear that UNESCO officials are acting most unwisely in appointing persons of Communist leanings to posts of responsibility in the international labor field."

E. J. Gainor, Former Letter Carriers' Head and AFL Vice-President, Is Dead

Washington, D. C.—Edward J. Gainor, 77, a former vice-president of the American Federation of Labor and president of the National Association of Letter Carriers, died at his home here.

A native of Greencastle, Ind., Mr. Gainor began his post with the AFL for 12 years and the presidency of the Letter Carriers Association. He retired from both in 1941.

An active labor man, he represented the AFL at the British Trade Union Congress at Hull, England, in 1924. In 1928 he was awarded an honorary degree by De Pauw University in his native state.

Mr. Gainor came to Washington in 1916 to take over his union duties. He led the letter carriers' union competently that he was reelected time after time by overwhelming majorities, though opposition groups contended that he should resign because of retirement.

He came to national attention in his crusades for the letter carriers, especially in the Civil Service, bitterly opposed wage cuts and forced furloughs in 1933. He worked for the 40-hour week, United Nat'l s Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization.

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VA to Make Inspections to Prevent Shoddy Construction of GI Homes

Washington, D. C.—Cracking down on unscrupulous and inefficient builders of GI homes, the Veterans Administration announced that it will henceforth assume direct responsibility for proper construction appraisals based on plans and specifications and a minimum of three inspections as work progresses.

The VA action came as a result of the flood of complaints received during the past year that some builders have been erecting crackerbox-like homes with sagging floors, wet basements, poor heating systems and other defects "too numerous to mention."

In the past the VA issued numerous warnings to builders against shoddy construction and the use of substitute, inferior materials not called for in the original specifications. The fact that the agency has felt it necessary to assume more direct responsibility is ample evidence that the builders are taking advantage of the present housing crisis, have thrown up jerry-built structures and sold them to veterans who have invested virtually their shelter for themselves and families.

Up until now it has been the responsibility of the appraiser and the loan to see that construction came up to minimum standards.

Hereafter, the agency said, appraisals and inspections will be made by VA agents. The appraisal fee will be paid by the builder, lender or sponsor of a project and may not be passed on to the buyer.

Builders, lenders and project sponsors will pay the biggest part of the inspection fee. The "reasonable value share" can be passed on to the veteran-buyer.

To do the job, VA said it would augment its staff of architects, contractors and engineers and assign the work to specialists chosen from this group.

AFL SOCIAL SECURITY COMMITTEE ANNOUNCED

Washington, D. C.—AFL President William Green announced the reorganization of the AFL Committee on Social Security. Matthew Woll, Executive Council member, continues as chairman, and Secretary-Treasurer George Meany was reappointed to the unit.

New members are Dan W. Tracy, president of the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers; Lee W. Minton, president of the Glass Bottle Blowers Association of the United States and Canada; James A. Brownlow, secretary-treasurer of the Metal Trades Department, and George Q. Lawrence, president of the Chicago Labor League of North America. Nelson H. Cruikshank continues as Director of Social Insurance Activities.

In his letter of appointment, President Green said there were many important labor policy matters in the field of social security that required attention. "It is important," he said, "that we have a strong committee composed of representative leaders of our movement to develop and guide our program in this field of such vital interest to the wage earners of America."

E. D. HOLLANDER NAMED NEW BLS PRICE CHIEF

Washington, D. C.—Ewan Clague, Commissioner of Labor Statistics, has named Edward D. Hollander as Deputy Lester S. Kellogg as chief of the BLS Price and Cost of Living Branch.

Mr. Hollander, a former economist with the U. S. Employment Service and the War Manpower Commission, joined the Labor Department in May, 1946 after serving with the Navy in World War II.

Mr. Kellogg is resigning from government service to accept private employment.

MINIMUM WAGE ORDERS SET RATE OVER 40 CENTS

Washington, D. C.—In the 2-year period since Oct. 1945, over 40 percent rate of the Federal Fair Labor Standards Act became effective, 14 states, including the District of Columbia, have issued a total of 24 new or revised minimum wage orders for specified industries, the Labor Department reported.

In all but three orders, issued in one state, the minimum hourly rate established for an experienced worker in the industry or occupation exceeds 40 cents. In the great majority of these orders the rate is 50 cents or more.

FHA Discontinues 90% Mortgage Insurance For GI Home Builders

Washington, D. C. — Emergency mortgage insurance underwritten by the Federal Housing Administration on veterans' housing has been discontinued, it was announced here.

Franklin D. Richards, FHA Commissioner, notified all state and district offices to cease taking applications for FHA mortgages because the $4,200,000,000 limitation set by Congress to help 2,400,000 veterans get builders on construction of homes for their families has been reached.

"Loans insured, commitments issued, and applications in process now total approximately that amount," he said in a statement.

It had been expected that the limitation set by Congress would be adequate until March 31, 1948, Mr. Richards said, but this did not prove true because of an accelerated rate of filing applications during the last few months.

He said discontinuance of this phase of the Housing Act affected only that section known as the emergency war housing program designed to provide veterans' houses rapidly.

He said it did not affect moderate-income loans made to and by the small home insurance program, nor did it affect the regular long-term financing under which loans might be made up to 80 percent.

AFL'S RAILWAY CLERKS WIN RAISE FOR 1,500

Cincinnati, Ohio.—Wage increases of $20 to $35 a month were awarded employes of the AFL's Brotherhood of Railway Clerks by Capital Airlines here for 1,500 dispatch and allied workers.

The raises, retroactive to October 1, brought pay scales on this line to just about the highest in the air transport industry, it was explained by Frank Reynolds, Clerks' general representative. In addition, the new schedules $10 to $20 a month automatic annual pay increases.

"Our relations with the management have been exceptionally friendly," Reynolds said.